

COVER SHEET

August 2006

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

TITLE

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Orlando Gasification Project

LOCATION

Orlando, Florida

CONTACTS

Additional copies or information concerning this draft environmental impact statement (EIS) can be obtained from Mr. Richard A. Hargis, Jr., National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochran Mill Road, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940. Telephone: 412-386-6065. E-mail: Richard.Hargis@netl.doe.gov.

For general information on DOE's NEPA process, contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0119. Telephone: 202-586-4600, or leave a toll-free message at 1-800-472-2756.

ABSTRACT

This EIS assesses the potential environmental impacts that would result from a proposed DOE action to provide cost-shared funding for construction and operation of facilities at Orlando Utilities Commission's (OUC's) existing Stanton Energy Center near Orlando, Florida. The project has been selected for further consideration by DOE under the Clean Coal Power Initiative (CCPI) to demonstrate advanced power generation systems using Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology. Although DOE funding would support only the Orlando Gasification Project (i.e., coal gasifier, synthesis gas cleanup systems, and supporting infrastructure), the project would be integrated with a planned, privately funded, combined-cycle unit, which together would constitute the IGCC facilities. The facilities would convert coal into synthesis gas to drive a gas combustion turbine, and hot exhaust gas from the gas turbine would generate steam from water to drive a steam turbine. Combined, the two turbines would generate 285 MW (megawatts) of electricity.

The EIS evaluates potential impacts of the proposed facilities on land use, aesthetics, air quality, geology, water resources, floodplains, wetlands, ecological resources, social and economic resources, waste management, human health and safety, and noise. The EIS also evaluates potential impacts on these resource areas for a scenario resulting from the no-action alternative (DOE would not provide cost-shared funding) in which the combined-cycle facilities would be built on the site to operate using natural gas with no gasifier, synthesis gas cleanup systems, or supporting infrastructure.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DOE encourages public participation in the NEPA process. Comments are invited on this draft EIS and should be postmarked no later than 45 days after publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. DOE will consider late comments to the extent practicable. Comments should be addressed to Mr. Richard A. Hargis, Jr., at the address provided above. Comments may also be provided orally at a public hearing, which DOE will conduct at Timber Creek High School, 1001 Avalon Park Boulevard, Orlando, Florida, on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, at 7 p.m. Prior to the meeting, an informal session will be held beginning at 5 p.m. for the public to learn more about the proposed project.